Decision to corporatise the Delhi Milk Scheme

*329. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to corporatise the Delhi Milk Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided 'in principle' to corporatise the Delhi Milk Scheme to provide more autonomy in its operations and management, flexibility in financial matters having regard to the consumers and in the interest of organization for making it more efficient and viable. Expression of Interest (EoI) from reputed professional agencies to prepare feasibility report and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/Articles of Association (AoA) and other related jobs have been invited in the matter.

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: What is the immediate reason or rather provocation to corporatise the Delhi Milk Scheme? Have you found out any sort of financial irregularities or administrative lapses in it?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, this particular unit was losing for a number of years, and various Governments have taken certain decisions about it. In 1997-98, the Union Government had taken a decision to handover this unit to the Delhi Government. But the Delhi Government was not ready to accept. Ultimately, the Delhi Government put certain conditions that they are ready to accept all liabilities up to a particular date. They were insisting that the Government of India should take that responsibility. The Delhi Government was also insisting grant of adequate fund for the modernisation of the plant and machinery. The Delhi Government has also insisted redeployment of surplus staff of the DMS. So, these suggestions were not accepted by the Government of India. And, ultimately, nobody was ready to take this unit. It is a unit, which is losing and the Government feels it requires improvement. Management has to be improved and flexibility in the financial matters has to be given. More autonomy should be given to this particular unit. There is no solution, but, ultimately, to accept, to corporatise this Delhi Milk Scheme .That was the reason why this decision was taken.

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Sir, my second supplementary is this. Besides taking suggestions from reputed professional agencies, is the Government considering to look into some of the milk schemes in various States including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana and Punjab? I would also like to know whether the Government is considering going through the functioning of all these States.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The Government is fully aware of all these schemes because the Government has got very close rapport with the various milk schemes, which are, practicaly, run by most of the States. Here, this particular Scheme was losing continuously. It is difficult for this Scheme to procure milk because Delhi is not a producing centre. The Delhi unit has to depend on Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab. All these States are developing their own schemes; that is why, there are limitations to get milk for this particular unit. If we corportaise it, then, probably, more efficiently, this unit will be managed; probably, they will be able to procure more, and they will be able to bring the losses down. That is the reason why this decision has been taken.

MR. K. MALAISAMY: Sir, according to our information, the DMS seems to be doing very well in Delhi. It is much more welcome to see that they are going to make it more autonomous. I am inclined to ask the hon. Minister how long it will take. Can you afford to give a time-frame before which the entire process will be over and it would be made autonomous?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Our efforts are to expedite this process. As the hon. Member said this unit is doing very well, in fact, if we study the overall deficit for the last five years, you will find that it shows that is not the position. In the year 2002-03, deficit for this unit was Rs. 8,65,00,000/-; in 2003-04, it was Rs. 20 crores; in 2004-05, it was Rs. 39 crores; and, in 2006-07, it is Rs. 24 crores. So, the way this unit is losing money, there is no choice, but, ultimately, to improve the overall working of the unit, and, that is why, the decision to corporatise this unit has been taken. We will expedite it and see that as early as possible, it is implemented.

श्री कमाल अख्तर: सर, मंत्री जी ने अपने जवाब में कहा है कि दिल्ली दुग्ध योजना को सैद्धांतिक रूप से निगमित करने का निर्णय लिया जा रहा है। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आज पूरी दिल्ली जहरीला दूध पीने के लिए बाध्य है। चाहे वह पराग हो, चाहे मदर डेरी हो, जितने भी प्रकार के दूध यहाँ पर सप्लाई हो रहे हैं, सबके 90 परसेंट सैम्पल्स फेल हो गए हैं। मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार ने इसको निगमित करने के साथ-साथ क्या कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था की है कि लोगों को अच्छा दूध पीने को मिले, सिंथेटिक दूध पीने को न मिले?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The Health Ministry in various States are taking all precautions. They take samples, and if they find that something is wrong, they take the decision to prosecute also. So, that is not the case. I can understand there are certain cases, here and there, but this is not a generalised case. In fact, there are a number of units in the country which are doing excellent job. For instance, Amul; Gujarat Milk Federation, is doing extremely good job, in Andhra Pradesh, it is doing good job and in Maharashtra, they are doing good job; in Karnataka, they are doing good job. So, there are a number of organisations which are doing good job. Simultaneously, there are a number of private organisations which are also doing good job. Our observation is this. Wherever the Government is running, they are facing problems. In fact, सरकार ने दुकान चलानी है, तो पैसे डुबोने वाली बात है। इसलिए सरकार को इसमें कम-से-कम जाना चाहिए और जो कोई इसको चला सकते हैं, उनको एनकरेज़ करना चाहिए। यह इसकी नीति तैयार करने की बात है।

*330. [The questioner(s) (Shri Abani Roy was absent. For answer *vide* page 26 *infra*.]

धान का उत्पादन और खरीद

*331. **श्री सत्यव्रत चतुर्वेदी:**
श्री मोती लाल वोरा:††

क्या **उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) चालू मौसम में धान का कुल कितना उत्पादन हुआ है और राज्य-वार तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा धान की कितनी खरीद की गई है;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा गैर-बासमती चावल की खरीद नहीं की जाती है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

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††सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री मोतीलाल वोरा द्वारा पूछा गया।